MILLENNIUM Bulk Terminals—Longview

State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement

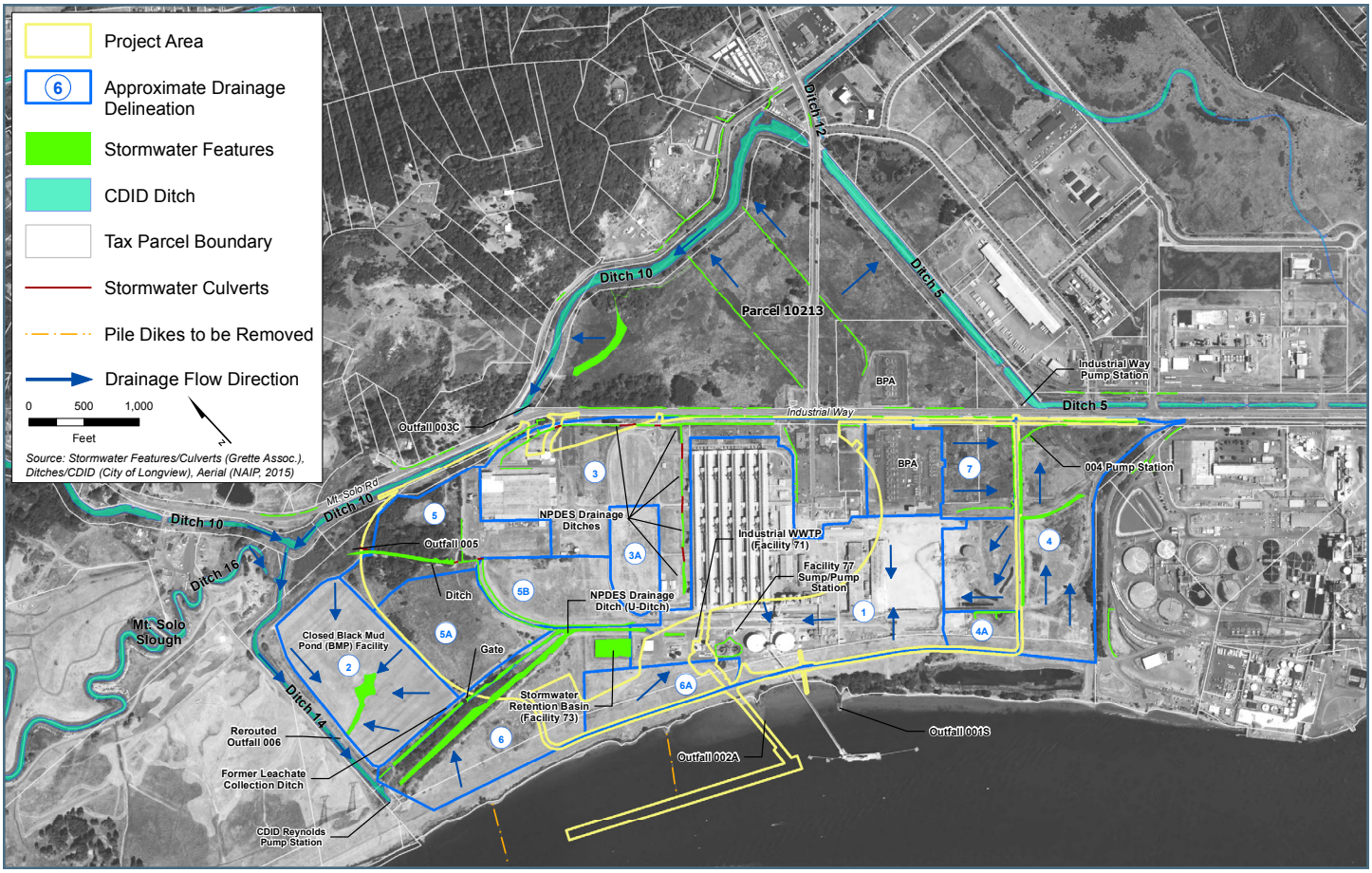
Surface Water and Water Quality Fact Sheet

Surface waters such as rivers and lakes sustain human health and ecosystems and provide natural beauty. Surface water is used for wildlife habitats, industrial uses, drinking water, irrigation, flood control, recreation, and cultural activities. The quality of surface waters refers to the physical, chemical, biological, and aesthetic characteristics. Water quality also indicates how well that water can support life, ecosystems, and human uses. Water quality can be affected by people, communities, industry, and wildlife.

The project area is on the north shore of the Columbia River near river mile 63. It is inside the Consolidated Diking Improvement District #1 with stormwater drainage ditches. The ditches drain to the Columbia River.

What impacts on surface water and water quality were studied?

The study looks at how construction and operation of the proposed project could affect water quality on and near the project area and in and along the Columbia River. Sediment may be disturbed, run off of the project area, and pollute surface waters. Hazardous materials, such as oil from equipment or coal dust could impact water quality. For construction, the study looks at potential impacts related to heavy equipment use, dredging and operations to compact the soil. For operations, it looks at potential impacts related to coal spills, coal dust deposition, terminal operation, dredging, and rail and vessel traffic.



Drainage features in the project area

This fact sheet is provided as a general overview for public outreach purposes. This summary does not include all aspects of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) analysis. The detailed analysis, data, and findings are in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS is the SEPA document of record for information.

How were impacts on surface water and water quality analyzed?

The study describes the current conditions for surface water and water quality on and near the project area. The study considers construction, operation, and transportation related to the proposed project. Next, it identifies potential impacts on surface water and water quality. Finally, the study includes actions that can mitigate or offset the potential impacts.

How would the proposed project affect surface water and water quality?

Construction

Disturbing soils during construction or dredging could temporarily increase the turbidity, or cloudiness, of runoff water. Construction activities include:

- Conducting ground-disturbing activities on 202 acres. These activities would expose soils and generate soil stockpiles. Most of the area has already been disturbed by previous activities on the project area. This includes removal of approximately 24 acres of wetlands.
- Removing 500,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Columbia River affecting 48 acres of deepwater habitat from dredging.
- Removing 4,312 square feet of river bottom for 630 piles used for the proposed docks.
- Removing creosote-treated piles from 225 linear feet of existing timber pile levees. This could temporarily suspend sediment and toxic material, but would permanently remove a source of creosote from the Columbia River.

Too much sediment in water can negatively affect fish habitat. The stormwater permit for the proposed project would require following a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that would include best management practices to protect surface water and water quality. With these requirements and because the project area is level, the study found construction would not likely affect water quality.

Oil and hazardous materials would be used by equipment during construction. The stormwater permit would require measures to prevent spills, which would include proper storage of oil and hazardous materials and spill kits. If a spill were to occur, the study found that the amount would be relatively small (typically less than 50 gallons), and response time would be relatively quick. The study found there would not be a high risk of spills affecting water.

Operations

Runoff from operations could pick up pollutants from the ground and affect water quality in the Columbia River. Operations include maintenance dredging and coal dust from stockpiles and moving coal within the project area. The study found that approximately 0.25 teaspoon of coal dust per square meter could be deposited to the ground within 1 mile of the project area per year. The study found this amount of coal dust would not have significant impacts on the Columbia River. The proposed project would include a stormwater-treatment system to manage coal dust and runoff and reduce impacts on water quality.

Oil and hazardous materials would be used by equipment. The stormwater permit would require measures to prevent spills, such as proper storage and spill kits. The study found there would be a low risk of spills affecting water quality.

Rail Traffic

Sixteen trains per day (eight loaded trains and eight empty trains) would serve the proposed project. Trains and the railroad use fuel, oil, and hazardous materials for maintenance and operations. Spills of oil, hazardous materials, or coal could happen, and if the spill reached water, it could affect water quality. If a spill were to occur, the rail operator would implement emergency response and cleanup actions as required by federal and state law.

Vessel Traffic

Up to 840 vessels would be used for the proposed project each year (840 empty incoming vessels and 840 loaded outgoing vessels). Vessels carry fuel, oil, and hazardous materials. Vessels would not be allowed to take on fuel while at the proposed docks. The vessels would carry coal within covered storage compartments. The study found the risk of a spill from a vessel would be low.

Vessels could affect water quality by eroding the shoreline by their wakes or from water moved by propellers. Water quality could be harmed if contaminated ballast water carried within vessels was released into the river. The study found the potential impacts on water quality would not be significant because protective requirements would be in place. For example, vessels are required to operate only in the deep navigation channel of the river and dock area. Discharges of ballast water are regulated by federal and state law.

What can Millennium do to reduce impacts on surface water and water quality?

Permits and Plans

The following permits and plans would be required for the proposed project:

- Critical Areas Permit.
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- Hydraulic Project Approval.
- Clean Water Act Section 404 Authorization.
- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for stormwater discharges from construction and operations.
- Best management practices will be required as part of the permits. The permit requires a Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Mitigation Measures

The study identifies the following mitigation measures to reduce impacts on surface water and water quality:

- Spill response kits will be maintained throughout the project area during construction and operations. Kits will contain equipment needed to quickly clean up any spills. If a spill occurs, officials at Washington Emergency Management Division, Cowlitz County, and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will be notified immediately.
- Coal dust will be monitored during operations at the proposed project. If coal dust levels exceed an established level for particulate matter, action will be taken to reduce coal-dust emissions. Coal-dust monitoring will be conducted at the coal piles, on the dock and where the rail line enters the terminal. Information will be reported to Southwest Clean Air Agency, Cowlitz County and Ecology.
- Coal dust emissions from rail cars will be reduced. Coal on trains must be appropriately shaped and surfactant applied at the mine site and in Pasco, Washington.

How can the public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

There are multiple ways for the public to provide comments. Comments will be accepted during the comment period from April 29 to June 13, 2016.

By Mail

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview SEPA EIS
c/o ICF International
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98104

Online

At ***www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov***

In Person

At a public hearing, orally or in writing

- **May 24, 2016**
  1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
  Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center
  1900 7th Avenue
  Longview, WA 98632

- **May 26, 2016**
  1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
  Spokane Convention Center
  334 W Spokane Falls Boulevard
  Spokane, WA 99201

- **June 2, 2016**
  1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
  TRAC Center
  6600 Burden Boulevard
  Pasco, WA 99301

Where can I find more information?

More detailed information on surface water and water quality is provided in Chapter 4, Section 4.2, *Surface Water and Floodplains*, and Section 4.5, *Water Quality*, of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The following sections of the Draft EIS also include detailed information and analyses relevant to groundwater: Chapter 3, Section 3.6, *Hazardous Materials*; Chapter 5, Section 5.4, *Vessel Transportation*; and Section 5.7, *Coal Dust*.

Additional fact sheets that discuss hazardous materials, vessel transportation, and coal dust are also available.

Visit ***www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov*** for more information on the proposed project and the Draft EIS.